
ANALYSIS IN HANDLING THE SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITION OF SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

The current state of the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is an obstacle on the families of scholarship students, which affects their living conditions. This research was urgent to find a way to overcome the problem. The objective was to find an approach after analyzing the socioeconomic conditions of university's scholarship students. From previous research, some students had socioeconomic problems with the working conditions of the father being a laborer, while the mother is not working, the average total income of parents was Rp. 2.000.000 or US. \$ 140/month, while respondents with an allowance of less than IDR 1.000.000 or US. \$ 70/month. The survey was conducted on campus right before The Large-Scale Social Restrictions was implemented in Jakarta. Data was collected by interviewing 114 respondents, analyzed with descriptive quantitative and qualitative. The quota load fee needed for online learning is a problem for them. The results obtained that some students suggested adjusting to the existing conditions and facilities, some others wanted their scholarship allowance to increase. In contrast, others needed the main quota subsidy in the form of the general phone quota. All these can be used as a policy strategy for handling the problem of affected scholarship students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Student analysis; Socioeconomic Condition; Scholarship Student; Pandemic COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries affected by the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which the government first declared with the discovery of 2 positive cases of COVID-19 on 6 March 2020. The transmission of the virus was originated from a visit of Japanese citizens in Malaysia who moved to Indonesia.¹

Since then, cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia have tended to increase, and their spread has grown wider. Through the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19, the Indonesian government stated that the number of recovered COVID-

19 patients had again increased to 842. This number exceeded the number of patient deaths a month later, as many as 616 after the addition of 26 people. Data on People Under Monitoring (ODP) became 186,330 people, and Patients Under Supervision (PDP) became 16,763 people, taken from 34 provinces and 257 regencies/cities in the country, which shows that COVID-19 cases are increasingly widespread from the previous day.²

Novel Coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19, or SARS CoV-2, is a current public health problem in Indonesia. The World Health Organization has made a global problem for this pandemic because it

has infected residents in almost all countries worldwide. Economic problems are the most felt impact outside of the illness of those infected with COVID-19. With 1.2 million employees being laid off because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number will continue to increase if COVID-19 lasts longer.³

Prevention programs against the spread of the COVID-19 virus continue to be carried out, including maintaining a distance of 1-2 m (social distancing), staying away from crowds, using masks, cleaning items with disinfectants, washing hands with soap in running water, and being advised to stay at home and Restrictions. The Large-Scale Social Restrictions have been implemented, starting in Jakarta, then wider to the Bodetabek buffer area. This program aims to break the chain of transmission to and from Jakarta province. Due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has caused economic losses nationally, which must be ended immediately before causing mass business bankruptcy.

A study demonstrated that the new regulations-imposed restrictions on civic freedoms, including access to public spaces enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributed to a significant decline in the mood, psychological well-being, and quality of life of young people adults.⁴

COVID-19 impaired university students' quality of life even after the movement lockdown was lifted. It had stated that frustrations due to study disruption, living in areas with a high prevalence of COVID-19 cases, and higher severity of depressive and Stress symptoms was significantly associated with lower quality of Life.⁵

This pandemic has an impact on policies at one Jakarta University. According to the Chancellor's Circular, Distance Learning needs to be carried out to all students and lecturers at the university during the pandemic to keep the learning curriculum running in all faculties. The burden on families, including students' parents, due to the COVID-19 pandemic is

felt to be even heavier if you see the number of laid-off employees and informal workers who are unemployed due to declining economic activity. University Scholarship is a tuition fee assistance intended for underprivileged and outstanding students.⁶

Participants of this scholarship are part of the student community who have been experiencing financial difficulties since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The cessation immediately sees the impact of sending money from parents to buy their needs. The burden of quotas that must be borne for the implementation of online learning and other family burdens add to their socioeconomic impact. The factors that affect their socioeconomic conditions must be known during the pandemic are very urgent, so immediate action is taken to help their difficulties. This research aims to analyze and prepare an approach that institutions can take in dealing with the socioeconomic conditions of scholarship students after knowing the analysis of the socioeconomic conditions of students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Socioeconomic conditions are socially regulated positions that place a person in a certain position in society. The granting of that position is accompanied by a set of rights and obligations that the status bearer must play. Non-natural national disasters caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have never occurred in recent decades. The most recent occurrence in Indonesia was the outbreak of avian influenza or AI or SARS-CoV in Indonesia in August 2003. The government controls the spread of the AI virus through a 9-step biosecurity policy, including the implementation of a vaccination program, a compensation program and traffic control, and poultry trade and its products, as well as policy implications that must be implemented.⁷

After the earthquake in North Lombok Regency on 5 August 2018, the socioeconomic conditions of the community experienced total paralysis in terms of production, distribution, and consumption, so that the community survived by relying on

assistance from several sources. The post-disaster recovery strategy in this district can be carried out by providing post-disaster assistance, human resource development, capacity development in the capital, and the development of people's economic institutions.⁸

The government scholarship students are students selected for the Education Fee Assistance Program, which is tuition assistance for poor prospective students who have the good academic potential to study in higher education in superior study programs until they graduate on time. Data in 2016 showed that more than 51% of these students have a GPA (Grade Point Average) between 3.0-3.5, and more than 31% have a GPA > 3.5, and 0.6% have a 4.0 GPA. With the current non-natural disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic, their socioeconomic conditions are experiencing obstacles and become a burden for the families of students' parents. This situation can affect the living conditions of students and, if not considered, can have an impact on student achievement and affect the termination of the provision.⁹

According to Mulyanto Sumardi and Hans Dieter Evers (2000)¹⁰ there are several characteristics of socioeconomic conditions that can affect the socioeconomic conditions of students during the COVID-19 pandemic, namely the occupation of parents/father/mother, income parents/father/

mother, school fees, expenses due to Distance Learning, and student pocket money.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The survey took place during the first Large-Scale Social Restrictions implemented when the respondents found themselves in a completely new normal condition as a transition. The research was observational descriptive using data taken from the office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs in reports of the number of scholarship students affected by COVID-19. Initial data collection was carried out in Pondok Labu Village, Cilandak Subdistrict of South Jakarta, beginning the COVID-19 case announcement in Indonesia in March 2020. Furthermore, retrieving data uses Google Form, which is filled with personal data and current conditions. The sampling technique is consecutive, where the link is spread to all students. The number of samples collected was 114 active scholarship students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 who had met the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The measured variables are the occupation of parents, the amount of income of parents/father/mother, expenses due to Online Learning.

RESULT

Table.1. Academic variables among Scholarship Students

Variable	Total (%) 114(100)
FACULTY	
Economy and Business	43 (37.7)
Health and Sciences	16 (14)
Computer Science	11 (9.6)
Social Science and Politics	27 (23.7)
Medicine	2 (1.80)
Engineering	9(7.9)
Law	6(5.3)
HOW TO REGISTER	
Government high school	43 (37.7)
Independent	14 (12.3)
Government Scholarship	57 (50.0)

Source: Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, 2020

Table.2. Descriptive variables among Scholarship Students

Variable	Total (%)	Total (100%)
Father's occupation		
Private	90 (78.9)	
Government employees	5 (4,4)	
unemployed	19(16.7)	114 (100)
Mother's occupation		
Private	29 (25.4)	
unemployed	85 (74.6)	114 (100)
Daily expenses		
sufficient	9(7.9)	
less	105 (92.1)	114 (100)
Income of the parent		
less	77 (67.5)	
sufficient	35 (30.7)	114 (100)
more	2 (1.8)	
Quota fee load		
Criteria1	66 (57.9)	
Criteria2	46 (40.4)	114 (100)
Criteria3	2 (1.7)	
Parent Chronic Disease history		
No	68 (59.6)	
Yes	46 (40.4)	114 (100)
Family is needed in society		
No	103 (90.4)	
Yes	11 (9.6)	114 (100)
Family as a source of community income		
No	112 (98.2)	
Yes	2 (1.8)	114 (100)
Perception students about socioeconomic condition,		
Bad	100 (87.7)	
Good	14 (12.3)	114 (100)

Table.3. The Problems that are felt by students during COVID-19 Pandemic

Variable	Total (%) 114(100)
Feelings felt by the students	
Saturated, tired	30 (26,32)
Stress	61 (53,5)
Happy/sad, anxious	30 (26,32)
Bored	23 (20,2)
Constraints during COVID-19 Pandemic	
Feel hard to do online learning	46(40,35)

Hard to follow the class	16 (14,04)
Feel limited in the activities	23(5.3)
New students have a hard time adjusting	23 (20,2)
Unstable connection in the remote area	30 (26,32)
unsupported devices	16 (14,04)
Reduced parental income	61 (53,5)
Financial difficulty	46 (40,35)
Necessary needs in COVID-19 Pandemic	
Quota loads	23 (20,2)
device and internet connection	30(26,32)
Suggestions from affected students	
Online learning improvement	29 (25,4)
increasing the scholarship allowance the	56 (49,12)
provision of the main quota	29 (25,4)

DISCUSSION

The state of this socioeconomic impact during the COVID-19 pandemic became an obstacle and a burden on the family of scholarship students' parents, which could influence and give their own perception to student life. This can be seen from the questionnaire results that 100 people (87.7%) considered their socioeconomic conditions to be poor, compared to 14 people (12.3%) who considered their socioeconomic conditions to be still good. Socio-economic is the position or position of a person in a community group, which is determined by the type of economic activity, education, and income. This socioeconomic condition is a position that is socially regulated and places a person in a certain position in society. A set of rights and obligations accompanies the granting of that position. The obligations must be played by the bearer of status.

According to Mulyanto Sumardi and Hans Dieter Evers (2002: 21),¹⁰ some characteristics of socioeconomic conditions are more educated, have a social status which is characterized by a level of life, health, work, and self-knowledge of the environment, have a greater level of upward mobility, have a broad field, are more oriented to the commercial economy of products, have a more specific attitude towards credit and work.

The result of one research concluded that there was a significant influence between family social conditions on the education level of fishermen's children by

5.8%, meaning that variations in social conditions could explain variations in children's education levels of 5.8%. The higher the social condition of the family, the higher the level of education of their children.¹¹ In the case of scholarship, students at one of University in Jakarta (114 students according to the results of the incoming g-form) have been registered as students in various faculties at University in Jakarta (Table 1). It can be concluded that the socioeconomic conditions of the family are quite high. This is reinforced by the data in table 2, that the father's occupation is mostly private, with as many as 90 people (78.9%). Family contributions are not needed in society as many as 103 people (90.4%), more families are not the main source of income for the community 112 people (98.2%), as many as 68 people (59.6%) students have healthy parents without a history of chronic disease. In the survey, it can be seen that the pocket money of 105 students (92.1%) is less than 1 million rupiah/US\$100 per month, the income of parents from students is 77 people (67.5%) less than 2 million rupiah/US\$200 per month.

In table 2, it is recorded that 66 people (57.9) could buy quotas only up to criterion 1, which is an average of fewer than 200 thousand rupiahs/US\$20 per month. We can relate this to the results of the data in table 3, where the most difficulties experienced by students during the pandemic are the difficulty of carrying out online learning (40.35%), the network in the village is less

stable (26.32%), and financial difficulties to buy including quotas (40.35%).

The distribution of data shows that more than half of internet users in Indonesia are in Java (55.7%), followed by Sumatra (21.6%), Sulawesi-Maluku Papua (10.9%), Kalimantan (6.6%), and Bali and Nusa Tenggara by 5.2% [12]. One of the difficulties faced in the learning process from home is the limitation of the internet. There were both from the availability of the network and the quota for accessing online learning.

The most difficulties experienced by scholarship students during the COVID-19 pandemic in table 3 are Stress (53.5%) and saturated, tired, and Happy/sad, anxious 26.32% respectively. This is in accordance with research from A.C.P. Harahap, DP Harahap, SR Harahap (2020) that out of the 300 students studied, 225 students (75%) had a moderate level of academic Stress, 39 students (13%) had a high level of academic Stress during distance learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.¹³

Suggestions and solutions proposed by scholarship recipients to overcome this problem are an increase in the scholarship pocket money 56 (49.12%), an improvement of distance learning 29 (25.4%), and the provision of the main quota instead of an application quota of (25.4%). They argue that by increasing the scholarship allowance, they can overcome the problem of unsupported devices and learning and the provision of quotas that are not yet optimal for their learning to occur.

The analog of the non-natural disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic is the earthquake in North Lombok Regency on 5 August 2018, that the socioeconomic conditions of the community experienced total paralysis, both in terms of production, distribution, and consumption, so that most people survived with relying on help from several sources. The post-earthquake recovery strategy in this district can be carried out, among others, by providing post-disaster assistance, human resource development (HR), capacity development in the capital, and the

development of people's economic institutions.¹⁴

With reflecting on this incident, it is hoped that it can inspire to overcome the socioeconomic conditions of students not only during an emergency as it is today, but it is hoped that it can be applied to normal situations.

In dealing with life during the covid19 pandemic, scholarship students experience changes in living conditions as risk factors which sometimes have an unpleasant impact for them because it affects their socioeconomic life. To survive (resilience) in the face of these changes requires confidence in one's own ability to solve problems that arise and support from the surrounding environment to survive in the face of life's pressures due to this pandemic. The need for enthusiasm and social support for scholarship students is expected to help overcome the conditions faced by students during this pandemic.¹⁵

These results were similar to an invention in the implementation of online learning. The obstacles faced in implementing online learning were included network or signal factors, limited internet quota, online learning platforms that have not been mastered, and mastery of the material is not optimal. By paying attention to the constraints of online learning and students' conditions, online learning should be planned more effectively, creatively, and innovatively.¹⁶

CONCLUSION

The socioeconomic problems of scholarship students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are that most fathers are private workers who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and have been laid off. These mothers do not work, so they cannot help the family economy. Small pocket money and reduced family income create a bad perception of students on the socioeconomic conditions that occur with worse situations than the previous normal situation.

The policy approach from students in the form of increasing the scholarship pocket money thus hopes to meet the needs in the context of learning, improving distance learning optimally that they have a positive effect on their learning achievement and the provision of the main quota instead of an application quota that has been given by the Ministry of Education and Culture where quotas like this are very difficult to use in remote areas outside Java, which students have to leave the house to find a bright network in order to attend lectures properly.

In addition, to help after the COVID-19 pandemic, students are also trained to develop skills in entrepreneurship which can be started from within the campus, so that if successful, this situation will not only last during the COVID-19 pandemic but can be carried out under normal circumstances when students finish learning.

SUGGESTION

It is necessary to conduct further bivariate research on the relationship between several risk factors and scholarship recipients' socioeconomic impact and general students.

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